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World Press Institute Criticizes Information Curbs Under Reagan

LONDON, Dec. 18 (AP) — The International Press Institute said today the Reagan administration has restricted news gathering, posing a "potentially serious loss of public accountability."

"The whole situation has continued to deteriorate," IPI Director Peter Galliner wrote in a summary of the worldwide media group's annual Press Freedom Review.

In the United States, the survey cited as restrictive the ending of unclassified background briefings for reporters by the Central Intelligence Agency and the closing off of the National Security Council staff to reporters.

The institute said the Reagan administration "appears to have adopted a press relations policy considerably tougher and more restrictive than those of previous governments in a bid to shut off leaks on national security matters."

Galliner also criticized a proposal by a Canadian commission to establish a panel to monitor newspapers' performance, Spanish laws empowering the government to close newspapers and radio stations and a new British law making it illegal for jurors to talk to reporters and giving judges broader powers to limit reporting.

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